

REMARKS

After the foregoing Amendment, Claims 1 -10, and 12 - 55 are currently pending in this application. Claim 11 has been canceled without prejudice. Claims 8, 29, 38, and 45 are withdrawn from consideration pending the allowance of a generic claim. Claims 1, 28, and 41 have been amended. New claims 54 - 55 have been added to more distinctly claim subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. In the specification, paragraph [0023] has been amended, and the Abstract has been replaced. Applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced into the application by these amendments.

Claim Objections

Claim 28 was objected to in the Action because of formalities. The amendment to claim 28 renders the objection moot. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1 - 7, 9, 10, 12- 28, 30 - 43, and 45 - 53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0074853 to Krampera. The Action specifically states "Note the embodiment of figure 5 of

Krampera which shows the spokes to be arranged in groups of three with each of the spokes crossing over one another."

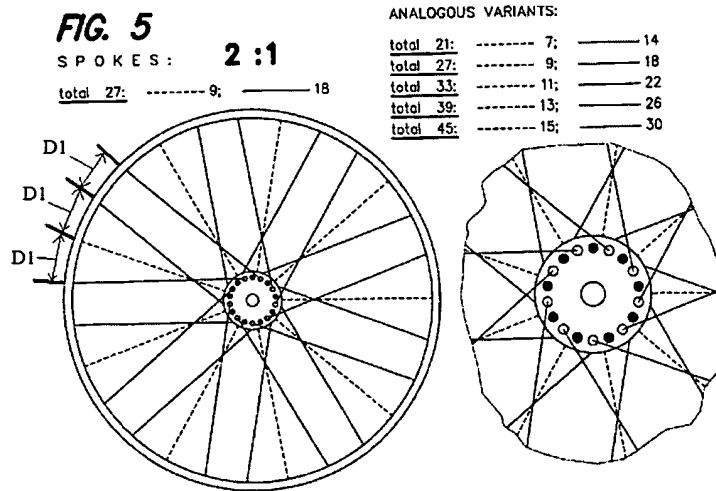
The present invention, as currently claimed in claim 1, is a spoked bicycle wheel, including a hub having an axis (X) and a median plane (M) generally perpendicular to the axis (X); a rim; and a plurality of spokes, arranged in groups (R), connecting the hub to the rim. Each group of spokes has at least two spokes which cross over one another when viewed in the direction of the axis (X) of the wheel. The spokes are arranged in groups such that the maximum distance on the rim between two adjacent spokes of a group is less than the distance on the rim between two different groups.

Further, as claimed in independent claim 41, the present invention is a bicycle wheel including a hub having an axis (X) and a median plane (M) generally perpendicular to the axis (X); a rim; and a plurality of spokes, arranged in groups (R), connecting the hub to the rim. The maximum distance on the rim between two adjacent spokes of a group is less than the distance on the rim between two different groups. Each group of spokes has at least two spokes that define a crossover (P) on a first side of the median plane and at least one spoke on a second side of the median plane. The spokes on each side of the median plane produce generally equal forces in opposite directions along the axis (X) that maintain the rim centered about the median plane.

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Applicants: Passarotto et al.
Application No.: 10/803,291

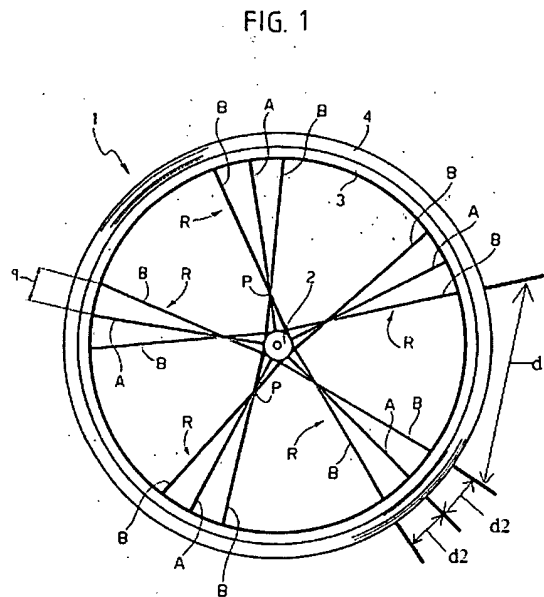
As shown below in Fig. 5 (modified to point out detail), Krampera, in contrast, discloses a wheel where the spokes are spaced on the rim at the same distance from one another (D1), as shown in Fig. 5.



Furthermore, there is no indication in Krampera that the spokes as shown in Fig. 5 are arranged in groups, as implied by the Examiner. Krampera specifically points out at paragraph [0044] "FIG. 6 shows an eccentrically spoked bicycle front wheel or bicycle rear wheel in side view in accordance with a further embodiment of the invention. The wheel has 24 spokes overall, again with the spoke number ratio 2:1 as in the FIGS. 4 and 5. Therefore there are 16 and 8 spokes crossed on both sides of the wheel. The spokes are arranged in groups of three." However, Krampera does not specify that the spokes of the wheel shown in Fig. 5 are arranged in groups. The Examiner cannot simply imply from the drawing that the

spokes are arranged in groups especially since the spokes are evenly spaced along the rim.

As shown below, in Fig. 1 (modified to point out detail) of the present invention, the maximum distance on the rim between two adjacent spokes of a group (d2) is less than the distance on the rim between two different groups (d1):



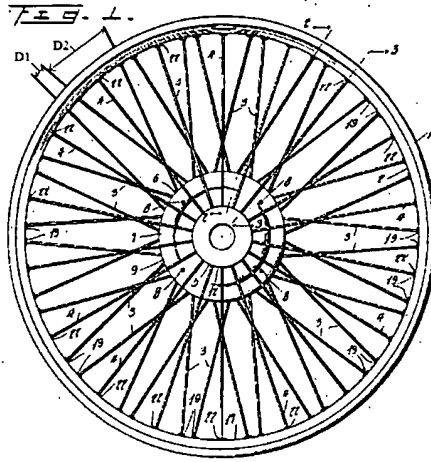
Claims 1 - 5, 7, 9 - 18, 20 - 27, 30 - 39, and 41 - 53 were also rejected in the Action under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,145,938 to Dietrich.

Dietrich describes a bicycle wheel having a hub with a distal flange that has a diameter that is substantially larger than the proximal hub flange. Dietrich does not teach or suggest spokes arranged in groups, set on the rim such that the maximum distance on the rim between two adjacent spokes of a group is less than the distance on the rim between two different groups as is currently claimed. Specifically, there is no showing or suggestion whatsoever in Dietrich that the spokes are arranged in groups. The Examiner cannot simply imply from the drawing that the spokes are arranged in groups especially since the spokes are evenly spaced along the rim.

The Action also rejected claims 1 7, 9, 10, 12 - 27, 30 - 39, and 41 - 52 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,642,207 to Jones. As in the above comments directed to Krampera and Dietrich, the rim of Jones does not teach or suggest spokes arranged in groups, set on the rim such that the maximum distance on the rim between two adjacent spokes of a group is less than the distance on the rim between two different groups as is currently claimed. In the wheel of Jones, the maximum distance on the rim between two adjacent spokes of a pair (D2) is greater than the distance on the rim between two different pairs (D1). This is clearly not what is currently claimed.

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Applicants: Passarotto et al.
Application No.: 10/803,291



Claims 2 - 10, 12 - 28, 30 - 37, 39 and 40 are dependent upon claim 1; claims 42 - 44 and 46 - 53 are dependent upon claim 41, which the Applicants believe are allowable over the cited prior art of record for the same reasons provided above.

Based on the arguments presented above, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejection of the claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants: Passarotto et al.
Application No.: 10/803,291


Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 1 - 7, 9, 10, 12 - 28, 30 - 37, 39 - 44 and 46 - 55, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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RJB/pp
Enclosure